U. S. FOREST SERVICE

RESEARCH NOTE NC-135

NORTH CENTRAL FOREST EXPERIMENT STATION, FOREST SERVICE—U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Folwell Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

FOREST AREA IN WISCONSIN COUNTIES, 1968

ABSTRACT. — In 1968 Wisconsin's forests covered 14.9 million acres of land, a slight decline from the 15.2 million acres reported in 1956. The area of commercial forest land also dropped slightly to 14.5 million acres; increases in the eastern part of the State of 50,000 acres were more than offset by losses of 381,000 acres in the west and central sections.

OXFORD: 524.61:64(776). KEY WORDS: commercial forest land, noncommercial forest land.

The third forest survey of Wisconsin shows that 14.9 million acres or 43 percent of the land area was forested in 1968. Almost two thirds of the forested land occurs in the two northern survey units (fig. 1). In 1956, forest land totaled 15.2 million acres.

Timber-using industries now have 14.5 million acres of forest land in Wisconsin to consider in their search for raw materials. This is the acreage suitable for growing industrial timber products and is defined as commercial forest land (table 1). The northeast and northwest survey units (roughly the northern half of the State) support nearly two thirds of the State's commercial forest land. The most heavily forested county in this area as well as in the entire State is Bayfield County with 777,300 acres of commercial forest.

The two eastern survey units together registered a slight gain in commercial forest land of 50,000 acres but the western part of the State (central and western units) showed a decline of 381,000 acres. Statewide, then, commercial forest land declined 2.2 percent during the 12 years between surveys. In the following tabulation, 1956 areas have been adjusted for boundary changes between forest survey units and to align the 1956 estimates more closely with definitions of land classification used in the 1968 Survey.

Forest survey unit	*Survey year*		*Change since 1956*
	1956	*1968*	
	(Thousand acres)		(Percent)
Northeast	4,045	4,062	+ 0.4
Northwest	5,459	5,246	— 3.9
Central	2,948	2,832	— 3.9
Southwest	1,545	1,493	— 3.4
Southeast	871	904	+ 3.8
State total	14,868	14,537	— 2.2

Only 3 percent of Wisconsin's forests are classified as noncommercial. Of the 409,000 acres in this classification, 34,000 acres are productive, but reserved for other uses. Adverse site conditions on the remaining acres preclude the growth of timber products suitable for industrial use.

The sampling error of area for this survey was ± 0.4 percent for the 14.5 million acres of commercial forest land. The third forest survey of Wisconsin was conducted by the North Central Forest Experiment Station and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Additional publications on timber volume, growth, and removals in Wisconsin are being prepared and will be available in the near future.

BURTON L. ESSEX
Principal Resource Analyst

1972

Table 1. — *Area of land and forest land, by counties, Wisconsin, 1968*

Survey unit and county	All land[1]	All forest	Forest land[2]		Commercial forest as a percent of land area
			Non-commercial[3]	Commercial[4]	
	Thousand acres	Thousand acres	Thousand acres	Thousand acres	Percent
Northeast Unit:					
Florence	311.9	269.3	6.6	262.7	84
Forest	644.7	549.5	21.8	527.7	82
Langlade	548.1	395.9	13.7	382.2	70
Lincoln	570.8	413.3	14.2	399.1	70
Marinette	881.8	675.7	25.8	649.9	74
Oconto	640.2	365.4	7.7	357.7	56
Oneida	711.4	604.0	37.4	566.6	80
Shawano[5]	818.3	496.1	10.7	485.4	59
Vilas	554.6	445.8	15.1	430.7	78
Total	5,681.8	4,215.0	153.0	4,062.0	71
Northwest Unit:					
Ashland	664.2	548.0	21.4	526.6	79
Barron	553.1	155.0	2.1	152.9	28
Bayfield	934.3	789.5	12.2	777.3	83
Burnett	537.8	324.6	7.3	317.3	59
Douglas	835.0	631.9	21.0	610.9	73
Iron	478.1	389.5	15.6	373.9	78
Polk	595.8	222.6	4.6	218.0	37
Price	806.4	655.2	47.0	608.2	75
Rusk	579.5	336.1	7.0	329.1	57
Sawyer	806.1	644.8	23.4	621.4	77
Taylor	624.2	381.5	12.5	369.0	59
Washburn	523.0	352.1	10.3	341.8	65
Total	7,937.5	5,430.8	184.4	5,246.4	66
Central Unit:					
Adams	413.6	252.9	2.1	250.8	61
Chippewa	651.3	213.9	2.5	211.4	32
Clark	781.5	279.8	3.0	276.8	35
Eau Claire	414.3	158.9	1.4	157.5	38
Jackson	639.3	348.7	3.2	345.5	54
Juneau	495.4	240.7	1.1	239.6	48
Marathon	1,015.2	377.8	4.0	373.8	37
Marquette	291.2	101.2	1.3	99.9	34
Monroe	585.3	219.4	.9	218.5	37
Portage	515.9	160.8	1.3	159.5	31
Waupaca	480.3	166.4	2.2	164.2	34
Waushara	401.5	119.3	1.0	118.3	29
Wood	516.5	217.6	1.6	216.0	42
Total	7,201.3	2,857.4	25.6	2,831.8	39

1/ 1960 Bureau of the Census estimates.

2/ Land at least 16.7 percent stocked by forest trees of any size, or formerly having such tree cover; excludes lands currently developed for nonforest use such as urban or heavily settled residential or resort area, city parks, orchards, improved roads, or improved pasture lands. The minimum forest area classified was 1 acre. Roadside, stream-side and shelterbelt strips of timber with crown width of at least 120 feet and unimproved roads and trails, streams, and clearings in forested areas if less than 120 feet in width were classified as forest.

Table 1 continued.

Survey Unit and county	All land[1]	All forest	Forest land[2]		Commercial forest as a percent of land area
			Non-commercial[3]	Commercial[4]	
	Thousand acres	Thousand acres	Thousand acres	Thousand acres	Percent
Southwest Unit:					
Buffalo	454.8	166.9	1.0	165.9	36
Crawford	363.8	131.5	.7	130.8	36
Dunn	545.8	139.3	.3	139.0	25
Grant	734.1	150.5	2.9	147.6	20
Iowa	487.9	123.9	3.1	120.8	25
La Crosse	288.5	94.7	.4	94.3	33
Lafayette	411.5	34.9	.3	34.6	8
Pepin	150.2	44.3	.2	44.1	29
Pierce	377.2	62.9	.3	62.6	17
Richland	373.2	104.2	1.0	103.2	28
Sauk	538.4	156.5	4.4	152.1	28
St. Croix	470.3	49.9	.4	49.5	11
Trempealeau	470.3	111.1	1.8	109.3	23
Vernon	513.1	141.8	2.5	139.3	27
Total	6,179.1	1,512.4	19.3	1,493.1	24
Southeast Unit:					
Brown	335.6	37.6	.7	36.9	11
Calumet	206.3	26.7	1.2	25.5	12
Columbia	496.5	82.9	.8	82.1	16
Dane	766.9	74.6	.3	74.3	10
Dodge	569.0	43.5	.8	42.7	8
Door	314.5	105.2	9.0	96.2	31
Fond du Lac	463.9	50.6	1.9	48.7	10
Green	374.2	31.8	.5	31.3	8
Green Lake	226.8	28.1	.4	27.7	12
Jefferson	361.0	33.0	.9	32.1	9
Kenosha	174.3	9.9	--	9.9	6
Kewaunee	211.0	32.1	1.2	30.9	15
Manitowoc	377.3	61.3	1.0	60.3	16
Milwaukee	151.4	--	--	--	--
Outagamie	406.0	69.9	.8	69.1	17
Ozaukee	150.8	15.1	.4	14.7	10
Racine	215.4	15.2	.5	14.7	7
Rock	461.4	31.7	1.0	30.7	7
Sheboygan	323.4	48.2	1.3	46.9	14
Walworth	356.2	26.6	1.0	25.6	7
Washington	274.5	36.8	.7	36.1	13
Waukesha	355.5	47.9	1.5	46.4	13
Winnebago	286.9	21.1	.4	20.7	7
Total	7,858.8	929.8	26.3	903.5	11
STATE TOTAL	34,858.5	14,945.4	408.6	14,536.8	42

3/ Unproductive forest land incapable of yielding crops of industrial wood because of adverse site conditions, and productive public forest land withdrawn from commercial timber production through statute or administrative regulation.

4/ Forest land producing or capable of producing crops of industrial wood and not withdrawn from timber utilization by statute or administrative regulation.

5/ Includes Menominee county.

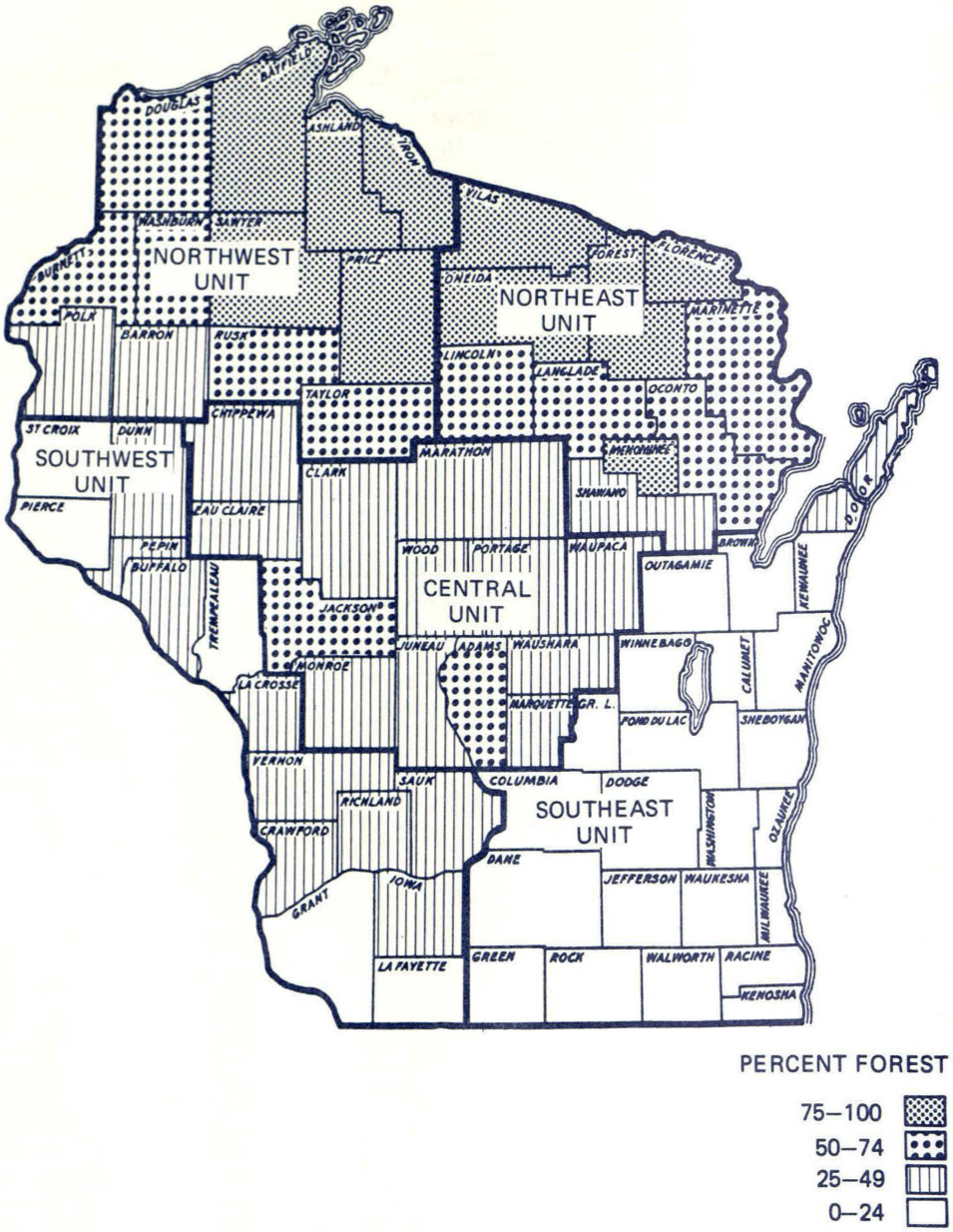

Figure 1. — *Commercial forest area as a percent of all land area, by county, Wisconsin, 1968.*

☆U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1972—760-476/37
Region 6